WHANGĀREI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



2025 Prospectus



Tēnā koutou katoa. Talofa lava, Mālō e Lelei, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Ni Sa Bula Vinaka, Malo ni, Fakatalofa atu and warm Pacific Greetings. Welcome to your new school.

Founded in 1881, Whangārei Girls' High School is a dynamic and vibrant school community dedicated to excellence and one where students will leave well prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities in their futures.

We aim for each and every one of our ākonga (students) to leave us as confident, well-balanced and successful global citizens. Student success and achievement lies at the heart of all our decision making. Whakamana ngā ākonga me ō rātou whānau i roto i te kura tuarua o Whangārei Terenga Paraoa. Our vision is to uplift and enable students and their whānau at Whangārei Girls' High School.

Māori students achieving success as Māori continues to be an area of focus for us. Whangārei Girls' High School 'He Kaupapa Rautaki' Strategic Intent expresses the strategic intent and commitment for our school for the next twenty years. "Titiro whakamuri ki te anga whakamua". We must look to the learnings of the past to advance the aspirations of our young leaders, moving forward. The student written affirmation 'Te Timatanga' is now firmly embedded in the culture of our kura, giving us all a positive start to each day.



Our curriculum is responsive to our constantly changing world. Our ākonga will feel inspired, challenged, and supported as they take responsibility for their learning, make the most of their opportunities, think critically, use their creativity and believe in themselves as they progress from Year 9 through to Year 13.

Our curriculum at all levels provides quality learning in all the learning areas, including Te Reo Māori and foreign languages, Art and Technology courses, Commerce and Trades Academies. It caters for all strengths and interests and reflects a strong commitment to our bi-cultural heritage and our local curriculum.

Education outside the classroom is an integral part of making learning relevant for students. We value the close working relationship we have with whānau and the wider community and are immensely appreciative of the high level of support we receive, as we strive to offer the best possible education for our ākonga.

We have our wonderful Manawa Ora block, newly refurbished and modernised classrooms, specialist areas including three gymnasiums, astro turf, swimming pool, weights room, commercial kitchen, Science laboratories, library and modern technology rooms. Ākonga are learning in modern environments which are conducive to student centred teaching and learning.

We are proud of our ākonga and their many and varied achievements and welcome new students and their whānau to our school community, bringing their own sets of strengths and interests and enriching our kura even further.

The Ministry of Education has developed an enrolment scheme for our school, effective from 1st January 2025. We welcome students from in zone and out of zone. Please see attached information sheets for more details

He waka eke noa. We're all in this together.

Sonya Lockyer Principal











WELCOME FROM OUR STUDENT LEADERS

Kei āku iti, kei āku rahi, rau rangatira mā, tēnā koutou katoa.

As your Pou Ārahi for 2024, we are filled with a sense of pride watching how our ākonga have adapted to living our kaupapa throughout our kura and their community. It is a pride that stems not just from their accomplishments, but from witnessing how they take action by living our values. In the words of our Principal, our goal is to turn our school from a good school to a great school, and by doing so, to gladly build upon the Whangārei Girls' High School legacy in the Northland community. Over the last few years our school has adopted changes that work towards embodying our school values, and a part of these changes was renaming the key roles in our student leadership, with Head students as Pou Ārahi, and Prefects as Kaiārahi. Our kura passionately inspires students to live by four main values, Kotahitanga, Whanaungatanga, Tūrangawaewae and Manaakitanga.

The value Kotahitanga refers to togetherness and emphasises the importance of unity amongst students and staff. At Whangārei Girls' High School we believe that by working together and supporting one another, we can grow together to achieve great things. "Ehara taku toa, i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini" which translates to "My strength is not the work of an individual, but the work of many". Our school is inclusive and we are empowering our students and staff to embrace the unique backgrounds that shape our values and identity. We actively engage with each other culturally. In our mihi whakatau ceremonies, people are able to express themselves in their own languages, creating a more culturally inclusive and sensitive environment.

Whanaungatanga is the foundation of our kura's Tuakana Teina relationships. This value is all about family and connections, and it helps us ensure that our ākonga and their whānau are involved in our school, to help us create stronger relationships with the Kaiako and a sense of family. These connections are formed during Whānau time, as well as when students are participating in mihi whakatau. In these spaces, students are able to meet and make friends with new students and staff that enter our school. Not only is this beneficial for our long-time students, but it is also a great way of helping new students feel comfortable and welcome into our school.

WGHS VALUES

KOTAHITANGA

- Unite as a community

WHANAUNGATANGA

- Connect positively with each other

TŪRANGAWAEWAE

- An empowering school environment

MANAAKITANGA

- Care and respect for each other



Our value Tūrangawaewae translates to "a place to stand". This means that we strive to provide an environment where everyone has a sense of belonging and can take pride in being part of our school community. Along with Whanaungatanga, we implement this value, along with our Kaiako, by creating safe spaces for our ākonga. Tūrangawaewae guides us in accepting and supporting each other and our identities. We want everyone here to feel supported, safe and comfortable on kura grounds, so that they can proudly say they are a student of Whangārei Girls' High School. We create a solid foundation for our students to stand upon, staying connected to our past as we look toward our future.

The value of Manaakitanga in our school embodies the respect we have for one another and ourselves. It guides us to treat others with kindness, compassion, and empathy. At our school, respect is embraced by students and teachers alike. Manaakitanga is a value we hold in our hearts with everything we do, whether it's ensuring that everyone is provided with a nutritious meal at our breakfast club, offering a helping hand, lending an ear or providing mentoring for our students. Through this value we, as student leaders, have created a safe space in which our ākonga and their whānau feel respected, valued, supported and empowered to achieve.

We are proud to be part of the WGHS student leadership team, and we strongly encourage our future peers to try something new, such as taking up new opportunities or applying for courses run by the Careers Office. Students can explore everything our school has to offer by joining student clubs or committees. We encourage you to reach out to others so you can be a part of something special and make your voices heard. Our Kura greatly values student and whānau voice, and we can't wait to hear what you have to offer.

Your Pou Ārahi, Ngāmihi Manihera, Shinayah Ko, Priyal Sharma, Brenna Misilei, Stella Harding and Danielle Iwashita.

WHANGĀREI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL STRATEGIC DIRECTION



"Whakamana ngā ākonga me ō rātou whānau i roto i te kura tuarua o Whangārei Terenga Paraoa.

Our vision is to uplift and enable students and their whānau at Whangārei Girls' High School."

In our school strategic plan we have three (Whainga) goals which are linked to our school values.

These goals are:

KOTAHITANGA

- Ākonga achieving excellent and equitable outcomes in our school. Fostering a culture of learning by using teaching methods and a place based local curriculum that encourages curiosity, active engagement, creativity, and learning. Mā te huruhuru, Ka rere te manu-"To adorn the bird with feathers to fly"



WHANAUNGATANGA/ TŪRANGAWAEWAE

- Developing a strong school kaupapa and tikanga that ensures that we live our school values in all that we do. Ākonga see and feel their identity, language, and culture within the school daily. All students and whānau feel connected to and have strong relationships within the school. Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini- "Success is not the work of one, but the work of many".





MANAAKITANGA

- Ākonga will be highly involved in the life of the school by being actively involved in the academic, cultural, sporting, whānau time and service activities. They will be empowered to further explore their strengths beyond the classroom. Nāku te rourou, nāu te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi- "With your knowledge and my knowledge, the people will thrive".



Whangārei Girls' High School is on our journey from being a good school to becoming a great school.

- "Good schools provide lots of opportunities for students: great schools believe that every student is gifted and talented in some way and seek to challenge their young people to become all they were meant to be.
- Good schools expect their students to behave well: great schools teach their students the importance of responsible and contributing citizenship.
- Good schools dare to care: great schools encourage young people to dream and give them the skills and strategies to make their dreams a reality.
- Good schools provide academic and pastoral support for their students: great schools say to their students, you can become all you were meant to be, if you are prepared to work for it.
- Good schools do things well: great schools have a hum of excellence"





NGĀ UARA - OUR VALUES



WHANAUNGATANGA

- students and teachers know each other
- students share knowledge about how they learn
- teachers know their learners and what helps them to learn
- students know each other
- teachers know students' whānau
- students show that they belong and connect to each other, representing our school with pride



TŪRANGAWAEWAE

- we respect the land on which the school is built and acknowledge our local hapu, Te Parawhau and Ngāti Kahu O Torongare, as tangata
- we share ideas about how to make our school an empowering and culturally sustaining environment
- we look after the school buildings and grounds



MANAAKITANGA

- we care for each other
- we care enough about each other not to let anyone do something unsafe, inappropriate or out of our values
- we demonstrate respect to one another, recognising the mana of each individual
- we maintain and enhance the mana of our kura
- we resolve conflict restoratively
- we are upstanders not bystanders



KOTAHITANGA

- staff communicate clearly with students and whānau
- whānau connect and communicate with staff
- students connect and communicate with staff
- we take up opportunities to collaborate with our community
- we work together to empower our ākonga to achieve success













CURRICULUM

We encourage each ākonga to take responsibility for their learning, with guidance and support from kaiako (teachers). Our students experience collaborative learning activities, a focus on local curriculum and Mātauranga Māori. We use Google Classroom as our online learning system. A chromebook or laptop is an important learning tool as we are a BYOD school.

We offer a wide range of subjects, with students in Years 9-11 experiencing a taste of all areas of the national curriculum. This gives our students a sound foundation for making informed choices around their areas of specialisation in the senior school.

Year 9 and 10 students study English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Physical Education and Health in either a Subject Specific programme or in SWITCH.

Year 9 students select two option subjects per term. Year 10 students select up to four option subjects, for two terms each. Year 11 students select up to ten courses from a vast range of choices. Most of the Year 11 courses are studied in half year semesters. English and Mathematics are compulsory whole year courses in 2025. Students take six courses each semester. By the end of Year 11, all students are expected to have gained NCEA Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy and to have gained NCEA Level 1 credits.

Year 12 students start to specialise in their courses as they study six courses for the whole year. Year 13 students study five courses and have a study line. Trades Academies are available at Level 2 for Primary Industries, Café and Bakery, Product and Design, and Toi Māori, and at Level 3 for Design and Manufacture.

Students are advised and supported to make wise option choices as changes will not be permitted during the year, except in extenuating circumstances.

STUDENT VOICE



At WGHS we have a large variety of fun courses that we can select from. We get to meet people with the same interests and passions.

Anonymous























CORE CURRICULUM FOR YEARS 9 & 10

Year 9 and 10 students select between Subject Specific and SWITCH.

Each Year 9 and Year 10 student will need to choose one of the following ways of learning.

All students will study English, Health, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science & Social Studies. All students will develop and explore the 21st century skills of collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem solving plus creativity and innovation.

Year 9 and 10 Subject Specific

Subject Specific

Students select **subject specific** on the enrolment form.

In subject specific classes, students are taught by subject teachers in each of their learning areas. In Year 9 students will move as a core class group to each of these teachers and their classrooms. For example, students will go to an English classroom, be with an English teacher and learn English, then the students will move to a Mathematics classroom etc. In Year 10, students move between classes but not as a group.

In each of the core classes, students will be taught to think critically, work collaboratively and develop their creativity, communication skills and digital literacy. They will work individually, in groups and as a class. Students will learn a wide range of content across these subjects and make links to the community. Students will be encouraged to be active participants in their learning.

Teachers provide timely feedback and feedforward to students and their whānau about their learning journey.

STUDENT VOICE

Subject Specific – Really enjoying my class, enjoy being with the same people and sitting with friends. I feel really secure in my class. The learning is really good because our teachers keep revising what we need to know. I like being with the same group of people. I feel like I have more time to connect with students and teachers in my class.

Tilly Hargreaves

STUDENT VOICE

SWITCH - In my opinion SWITCH is amazing because we get learning that works for us, and we get to know the teachers a lot better because we always have the same ones, and they get to know us too! They also design the learning to fit each student's individual needs. It's so good when the teachers and students form a genuine connection, and the learning works well for each individual person.

Susannah Hovell

Year 9 and 10 SWITCH

SWITCH

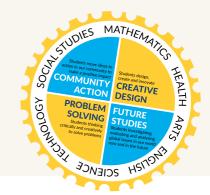
Students select **SWITCH** on the enrolment form.

SWITCH is for students who wish to be involved in an integrated approach to learning. This learning is driven by 'big ideas', and is project based.

English, Mathematics, Health, Physical Education, Science and Social Studies will be interconnected through these big ideas. This interwoven curriculum is based on developing learners, leaders and change-makers who use knowledge meaningfully in our local community.

SWITCH involves a larger group of students, in a larger classroom with two teachers. The students predominantly stay in this one larger classroom but will access Science laboratories and specialist rooms as required.

Learners see connections across the curriculum that happen in our everyday lives.







EXPLORING YOUR PASSIONS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Opportunities for learning outside of the classroom. The learning doesn't stop when the bell goes!

We offer a wide range of learning opportunities outside of the classroom and our ākonga participate in many activities and clubs that allow them to continue to develop their knowledge and skills beyond the classroom setting.

The Library is a haven for our students who like to immerse themselves in a book. We have visiting authors, and each year we host the BookENZ Literature Quiz where our students compete with other schools around Northland. Teams of students also compete in the National Readers' Cup. Last year our team was the regional champion and went on to compete with other schools from around the country.

For our orators, we have speech competitions throughout the year in both English and Te Reo. It is always a source of great pride for us to hear our students speak with confidence and composure. Our students consistently do well in the Race Unity and Rotary Speech Competitions and in Ngā Manu Kōrero. Our Debating team is also developing a formidable reputation and really enjoys debating against other schools in Northland. The Model United Nations and Youth Forum are very popular.

Our Global Issues and Citizenship Committees develop schoolwide activities to get ākonga to consider their role as global citizens. Students interested in politics and in leadership also participate in our School and Kāhui councils, gaining insight into organisational decision and change-making, many then going on to take up roles as Kaiārahi and Pou Ārahi.

For those of a more mathematical or scientific mindset, the Mathex and Epro8 Engineering competitions are popular. We have also had great student success in the NZPMC (New Zealand Physics and Maths Competition).

As well as teacher-led tutorials, our Honorary Big Sisters, (senior student volunteers), work with junior students who request tutoring and mentoring. This tuakana teina model strengthens connection between the different age groups.

There are far more opportunities, clubs and committees, too many to mention them all but we hope to have given you a taste of a few. Opportunities in Sports, Arts and Culture are detailed on the following pages.



STUDENT VOICE

I am passionate about social justice issues and enjoy participating in events that allow me to contribute and raise awareness about inclusivity and equality. Engaging in Race Unity Speech Awards has been an invaluable learning experience deepening my understanding of racial issues as well as the experiences of marginalised communities. This has given me the opportunity to foster relationships with individuals who share my passion for racial equality, inspiring a sense of community and solidarity.

Harshinni Nayyar





OPPORTUNITIES TO BE ACTIVE FROM NOVICE TO ELITE

We encourage all students to be involved in school activities outside the classroom as an important part of their individual growth and development.

We have over 40 sporting codes and committees available for students to join, with support from the senior students. Students are encouraged to join at least one sporting code as a great way to make friends, contribute to the school and develop personal skills and qualities outside the classroom.

Our school has a strong tradition of high levels of participation and excellence in sport, with our students achieving national honours and representation in a wide range of sporting activities.

School teams participate in local, regional, national and international competitions. The sports programme is led by the Sports Department with lunchtime activities organised by the student-led Sports Committee. Senior students are expected to provide leadership at all levels, and many coach junior teams.

Our three gymnasiums are well used for a range of activities, with the Manawāhine Gym featuring full size basketball and netball courts. Our swimming pool is enjoyed in Terms 1 and 4 for Physical Education and Outdoor Education classes, as well as for our famous annual Big Splash.

An all-weather astro turf and dedicated weights room complete a comprehensive set of sporting facilities.

STUDENT VOICE

We like that there is volleyball on in the gym at lunchtime. I play netball for the school and I like it because I get to meet new people. There are lots of things to do at the school.

Jayne Tamihana & Kaufo'ou Fifita



















CELEBRATING ARTS AND CULTURE

Whangārei Girls' High School is very committed to supporting, developing and celebrating the Arts.

Do you have a passion for music, theatre, dance, kapa haka or visual arts and design?

At Whangārei Girls' High School, we believe that nurturing creativity is essential for a well-rounded education. Our vibrant Arts Programmes offer students of all abilities the opportunity to explore their artistic talents and develop a lifelong love for the Arts.

Diverse Offerings

We provide a comprehensive curriculum encompassing visual arts, music, drama, dance and kapa haka. Students can delve into traditional techniques like drawing and painting, or experiment with digital media and performance art.

Expert Guidance

Our passionate and experienced teachers are dedicated to fostering a supportive learning environment. They guide students in honing their skills, discovering their artistic voice, and building confidence.

STUDENT VOICE

We have access to materials, facilities and enthusiastic teachers who help us to follow our passions and to be able to enter events like the Toi and Bernina fashion competitions.

Maddie Ellis



Performance Opportunities

Showcase your talent! Students can participate in regular school productions, art exhibitions, and music and dance performances. We also encourage participation in local and regional arts festivals and competitions.

State-of-the-Art Facilities

Our dedicated Arts facilities provide the perfect space for artistic exploration with well-equipped art studios, a performance theatre space, music practice rooms equipped with a wide variety of instruments and a recording studio.

Beyond the Classroom

The Arts programmes at Whangārei Girls' High School also extend beyond the classroom. Students can join a number of clubs and groups including Pasifika Dance Group, Kapa Haka, Rockquest bands, String Group as well as collaborate on interdisciplinary projects, and participate in school-organised art trips and workshops.

Join us and ignite your artistic spark!



STUDENT VOICE

I like the idea of building new skills. I love having the option of showing your creative talents. Some options allow a lot of creativity. I like the freedom to talk to different students. Some options allow us to be a little more relaxed, whilst still getting all our work done.

Anonymous



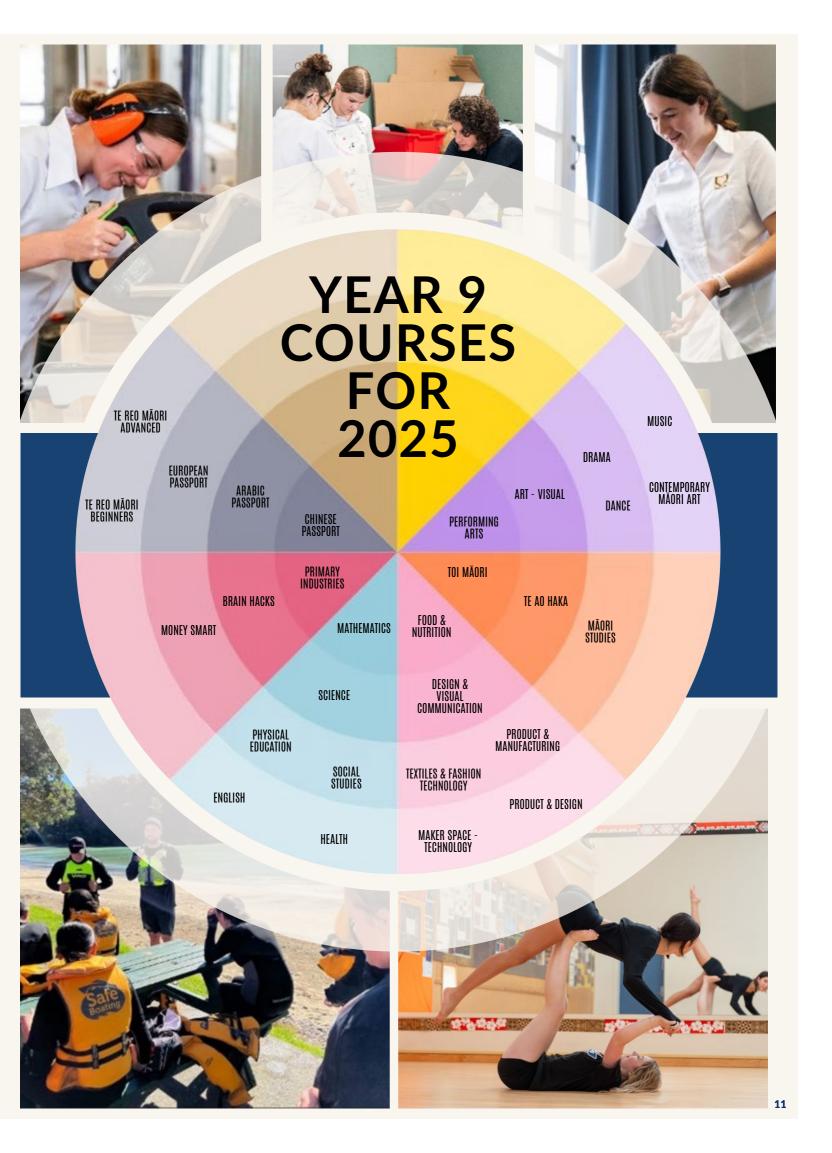










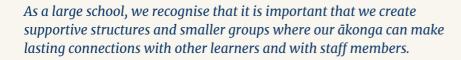


A CONNECTED COMMUNITY











Each ākonga belongs to a whānau class. Junior and senior whānau classes are linked together. The students in the whānau class stay together first as a junior whānau class of Year 9 and 10 students, then as part of a senior whānau class of Year 11 to 13 students. The whānau teachers connect often and tuakana teina activities between the junior and senior class happen each year in order to build connections across the year groups. The whānau teacher's role is to both awhi and manaaki their whānau students and their caregivers. They deliver a whānau programme that is focused on our school kaupapa and values and encourages connection between students within the whānau class and between whānau teachers and their whānau students. The whānau teacher is also available to assist with attendance and course selection. You can expect to meet with your student's whānau teacher in Term 1 and to stay in regular contact. They will be your first point of contact.

Houses

Each whānau class belongs to a house. Our houses are named Mansfield, Rutherford, Bell, Manaia, Sheppard and Lovelock. Each house has a colour which students wear with pride at whole school events such as The Big Splash and House Day. Each house is headed by a Dean who stays in regular contact with the whānau teachers in their house. The Dean takes responsibility for the progress, attendance and welfare of students within their house. Regular House Assemblies are led by the Dean and the student House Captains who aim to build house spirit. Every year there are house competitions, with one house being crowned the victor at the end of the year.

Kāhui

Each house belongs to one of our three Kāhui: Pōhutukawa (Mansfield and Rutherford); Kahikatea (Bell and Manaia); Matariki (Sheppard and Lovelock). One of our Deputy Principals heads each Kāhui, leading our Kāhui Assemblies and having overall pastoral responsibility for their Kāhui. A Kāhui Council for each Kāhui is formed each year. These students gather student opinions, discuss the school systems and structures, assist with Donations Week and prepare items for Kāhui Assembly. A few Kāhui Council members are elected to the School Council each year.

















TAUTOKO - SUPPORT

We have a range of supports available for our ākonga.

Te Puna Ora: Student Support Centre

Te Puna Ora focuses on supporting the hauora of our students. We have a range of services available including: First Aid, Counselling, Physiotherapy, DHB nurses, Dental Planet.

Careers & Gateway

Our Careers team provides unbiased support, information and connections to further study, work experience and work opportunities.

ESOL & International

We offer an ESOL class for students new to New Zealand or to learning in English (available for both domestic and international students with English as a second language). Whangārei Girls' High School has been welcoming international students into our school community since the early nineties. We enjoy helping the students to enhance their English, achieve their academic goals and experience our beautiful country. At the same time, we enjoy learning about other countries and cultures, as we prepare our students to find their place in today's world. When international students come to study in New Zealand, we have a special Code of Practice to ensure they are well informed and well cared for.

Whangarei Girls' High School takes pride in meeting and exceeding the Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021 requirements, including 24/7 care for all our international students while in New Zealand.

Our International Department has their own brochure, available on request.

Te Rau Aroha

Our school whare is a hub for learning where Te Reo and tikanga are celebrated. This is the perfect space for students who have joined us from kura kaupapa and bilingual education to connect and seek support.

LEARNING SUPPORT:

Te Puna Mātauranga (TPM)

Students needing learning support or screening for learning needs are supported by Te Puna Mātauranga. This is also the base for our Learning Support Assistants and our HOD Learning Support who coordinates provision for students with higher level needs, including those receiving ORS, ICS, High Health Needs funding. A team of ORS Specialist teachers works alongside TPM and classroom teachers to assist with Individual Education Plans and differentiation of classwork.

Learning Support Coordinator (LSC)

Our LSC supports neurodivergent students, students with lower level needs, and students dual enrolled with Northern Health School and Te Kura.

Kaimanaaki

Our Kaimanaaki support students and whānau to overcome barriers to attendance and engagement in education. They are trained in youth and social work.



OUR COMMUNITY

Parent Portal

The parent portal enables whānau to monitor their student's attendance and progress at school. As ākonga complete assessments, the results will be available for you to view in the Parent Portal. There will be comments on your student's progress with feedback and feedforward throughout the year.

It also has the daily notices and other useful information.

School App

The school app is proving to be an effective form of communication when things change suddenly e.g., a sports practice cancellation or a reminder for important events such as whānau hui. It is free and available from the App Store to download.

Community Links

We are fortunate to enjoy strong support from a wide range of community networks and agencies and we aim to give back to our community whenever we can.

Our students support a number of community events, often officiating or assisting as volunteers. An increasing number of students are gaining an impressive number of points as part of the Volunteer Student Army.

We have an active Parent Teacher Association and an engaged Board of Trustees who all show a strong interest and commitment to our school.

Student-led committees actively support the community by raising funds or supplying much needed goods to a wide range of organisations such as Red Cross, Women's Refuge, Cancer Society, Soul Food and the 'I have a dream' Programme.





WGHS UNIFORM

Our school uniform is an important part of showing pride in our school and in ourselves.

The Year 9 - 12 uniform includes:

- Black skirt with school logo (different styles and lengths available) or
- Plain black Sulu or le Faitaga (Pasifika style long skirt)
- Black trousers with school logo
- Black shorts with school logo
- White shirt with school logo
- Blue jersey (v-neck) with school logo
- Black sweatshirt (v-neck) with school logo
- Black shower proof jacket (optional puffer jacket)
- Black PE shorts and blue PE t-shirt with school logo
- Plain flat black shoes or black sandals with one ankle strap
- A plain sun hat of any style can be worn in the summer months (outside)
- Head dress (white, black or blue)
- White socks to be worn with shoes

All items must be regulation WGHS uniform items showing the school logo (except black jacket).

For school swimming, students may wear one piece togs, board shorts, rash vests or a combination of these.

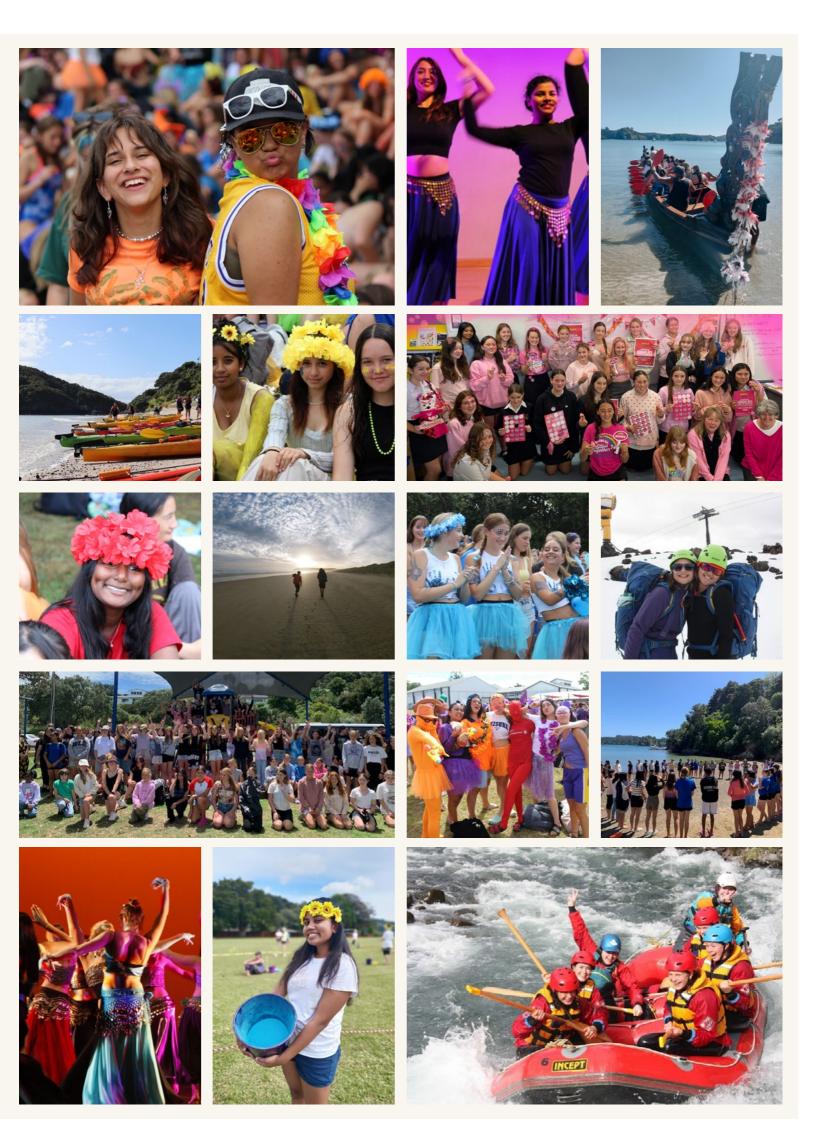
We do not permit cotton clothing to be worn for swimming.

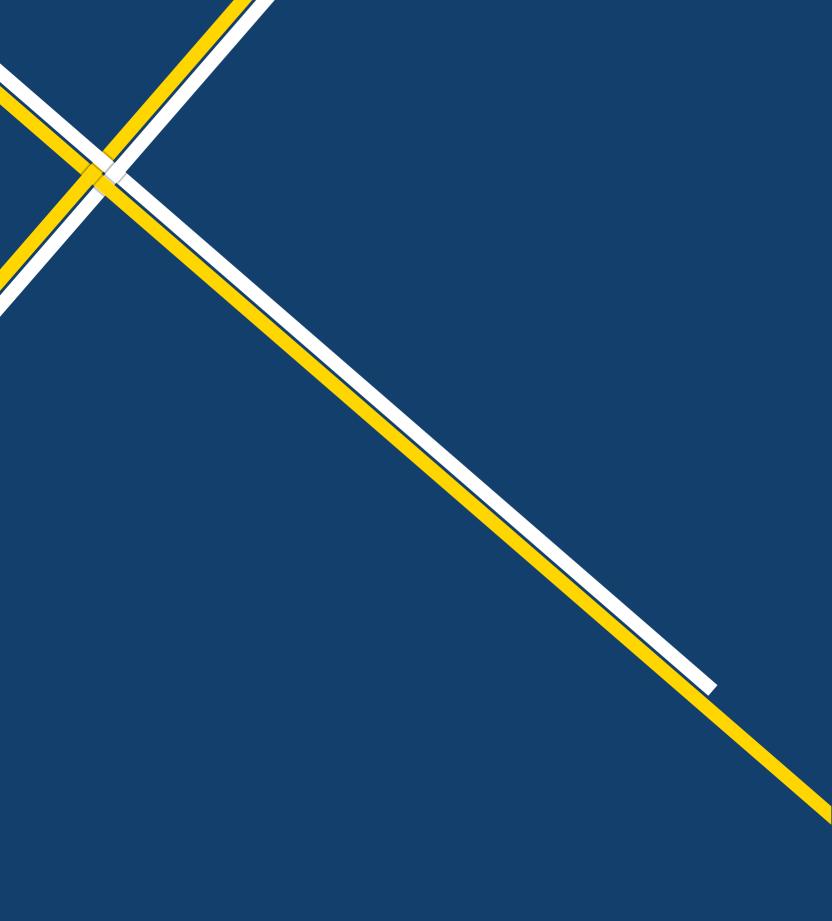
We ask that students wear little or no make-up, and keep hairstyles simple. We also ask students to restrict jewellery to:

- ID or medic-alert bracelet
- Neck chain, bone carving or taonga
- Watch, ring and studs or small sleepers in pierced ears
- A discreet nose stud (no bars or rings)

Uniform items can be purchased from Bethells Uniforms in the Whangārei Strand Arcade, Uniform Hub (Kamo) and The Warehouse. Second-hand uniforms are available through the WGHS PTA – please contact the school for details.

Pou Ārahi and Kaiārahi have a unique blue and grey uniform so they are easily visible in the student body, and for all other Year 13 students, uniform is optional, with the Year 13 dress code on our school website.





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